

Message Text

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ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-10 TRSE-00 /064 W
-----111825Z 021903 /44

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3780

INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

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FOR S/PRS; DEPARTMENT PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL
AND NSC FOR MR. SCHECTER; USIA FOR IPS/PE, IEU

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R) US, UK

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR W. TAPLEY BENNETT'S POST-NATO
MEETING PRESS CONFERENCE, LONDON, MAY 11, L977

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF POST-NATO MEETING PRESS CONFERENCE
GIVEN BY U.S. NATO AMBASSADOR W. TAPLEY BENNETT JR. AT THE
BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S PRESS CENTER, LONDON.

BEGIN TEXT

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IF I MAY START WITH A BRIEF WORD
OF MY OWN BEFORE WE GET INTO QUESTIONS. FIRST, I WOULD
LIKE TO EXPRESS THE APPRECIATION OF MY GOVERNMENT TO
THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES FOR THE REALLY VERY WONDERFUL
ARRANGEMENTS THAT WERE MADE FOR THE VERY WARM HOSPITALITY
THAT WE HAVE FOUND HERE. EVERYTHING WAS IN PERFECT ORDER,
AS ONE HAS COME TO EXPECT WHEN THE BRITISH ARE IN
CHARGE OF THIS SORT OF THING, AND REALLY IT MADE
EVERYTHING VERY EASY. FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF MY
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GOVERNMENT WE THOUGHT THIS MEETING WAS A VERY REAL
SUCCESS. IT FOLLOWED ON TWO OTHER IMPORTANT MEETINGS
HERE IN LONDON. NATO HAS NOW BEEN MEETING FOR WELL ON
30 YEARS AND SO IT HAS STOOD THE TEST OF TIME. THERE
ISN'T ALWAYS NECESSARILY A GREAT DEAL OF DRAMA IN A
MEETING, BUT I THINK THERE WAS PARTICULARLY SO THIS
TIME WITH THE PRESENCE OF PRESIDENT CARTER AT HIS FIRST

EUROPEAN GATHERING OF THIS KIND. IT WAS A VERY USEFUL MEETING FOR HIM AS WELL AS FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE. IT GAVE THEM A CHANCE TO MEET THEIR COUNTERPARTS AND TO GET ACQUAINTED AND I THINK THAT'S ONE THING THAT WAS IMPRESSIVE IN THE ROOM YESTERDAY AND IN THE OTHER MEETINGS WAS THE WARM CAMERADERIE THAT DEVELOPED VERY QUICKLY, A PART OF THAT DUE TO THE PERSONALITY OF OUR PRESIDENT I THINK, BUT ALSO DUE TO JUST THE GENERAL GOOD FELLOWSHIP THAT VERY QUICKLY PREVAILED AND THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM CERTAINLY MADE HIS GREAT CONTRIBUTION TO THAT. WE FELT THAT THIS MEETING WAS SUCCESSFUL IN ITSELF. I THINK IT PROVIDES THE GROUNDS FOR A NEW IMPETUS IN THE ALLIANCE. I WILL SPEAK PRIMARILY THIS MORNING ON THE NATO MEETING OF YESTERDAY AND TODAY AND THE COMMUNIQUE. YOU HAVE ALREADY HAD A BRIEFING YESTERDAY AFTERNOON BY AMBASSADOR OWEN ON THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH. I THINK IN GENERAL THE SENSE OF THIS MEETING WAS THAT OUR POSTURE IS ONE OF PEACE. OUR DESIRE IS TO REACH PARTLY THROUGH DIRECT U.S.-SOVIET EFFORTS AND PARTLY THROUGH THE ALLIANCE AN END TO THE ARMS RACE, TO TRY AND WORK OUT DISARMAMENT IN MAJOR FIELDS. AT THE SAME TIME, THERE IS GENERAL CONCERN OVER THE CONTINUED BUILD UP IN THE EAST AND THE ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF MONEY THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS ALLIES ARE PUTTING INTO THEIR STRUCTURE, BOTH INTO BUILD UP AND INTO MODERNISATION. IF OUR EFFORTS AT DISARMAMENT ARE NOT AVAILING THEN WE ARE PREPARED TO MAINTAIN THE BALANCE AS WE HAVE DONE IN THE PAST. IT RESULTS AS A MATTER OF UNCLASSIFIED

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SATISFACTION I THINK THIS TIME THAT EVERY MEMBER OF THE NATO ALLIANCE IS A DEMOCRATIC STATE AND FOLLOWS PRACTICES OF DEMOCRACIES WITH FREE ELECTIONS AND WITH THE OTHER LIBERTIES THAT WE HAVE COME TO ASSOCIATE WITH THE REST OF THE SYSTEM WHICH WE REGARD AS ALL IMPORTANT AND THIS WILL I'M SURE BE A CONTINUING THEME. I THINK THAT IS ABOUT ENOUGH FOR ME TO SAY, I'LL TAKE YOUR QUESTIONS.

DAVE JENSON, NEWSWORLD, NEW YORK: IF YOU CONTACTED THE PRESIDENT, THE COMMUNIQUE AND WHAT WAS HIS REACTION?

ANSWER: WELL, I WAS WITH THE PRESIDENT YESTERDAY AFTERNOON JUST BEFORE HE DEPARTED AND HE AT THAT TIME WAS AWARE OF WHAT THE COMMUNIQUE IN GENERAL WAS GOING TO HAVE IN IT AND WAS VERY SATISFIED AND HE EXPRESSED HIMSELF WITH GREAT SATISFACTION OVER THE GENERAL RUNNING OF THE MEETING AND THE ATMOSPHERE. THE SECRETARY OF STATE WHO WAS THERE THROUGHOUT THE MEETING THIS MORNING

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
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OF COURSE TOOK AN ACTIVE PART IN THE FINAL STAGES OF
THE COMMUNIQUE.

QUESTION: MR. AMBASSADOR, CHRISTOPER WAYNE, BBC TV
NEWS, ON THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE U.S. PURCHASES OF
EUROPEAN ARMS DEALS, THE SO-CALLED TWO WAY STREET, HAS
THERE BEEN ANY INDICATION AT ALL OTHER THAN GENERAL
SUGGESTIONS THAT THIS WILL BE A GOOD IDEA, HAS THERE
BEEN ANY DIRECT SUGGESTION OF WHAT SORT OF ARMS DEALS
YOU MIGHT BE PREPARED TO ENTER INTO?

ANSWER: WELL, I THINK THE DEFENSE AUTHORITIES WOULD BE
BETTER QUALIFIED TO SPEAK TO THAT THAN I. YOU SAW THE
VERY STRONG STATEMENT THE PRESIDENT MADE YESTERDAY ON
THAT AND OUR DEFENSE AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN DIRECTED TO
REVIEW THIS WITH A VIEW TO WHAT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE. I
MYSELF DO NOT KNOW THE DETAILS OF JUST WHICH ITEM OF
EQUIPMENT MIGHT BE THE THING TO GET INVOLVED IN BUT
THERE IS A REAL DESIRE TO MAKE IT MORE OF A TWO WAY
STREET AND ONE WAY TO DO THAT OF COURSE IS THE LICENSING
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OF EUROPEAN EQUIPMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AND IT COULD BE MANUFACTURED OR PRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES UNDER LICENCE, WHICH GOES TO ANSWER THE PROBLEM OF THOSE WHO ARE WORRIED ABOUT AMERICAN EMPLOYMENT, ETC.

QUESTION: I AM JUST WONDERING IF YOU CAN TELL US WHAT (INAUDIBLE).. OUTCOME OF SALT TALKS AND WHETHER YOU ARE ABLE TO HAZARD ANY GUESS AMONG YOURSELVES AS TO WHICH WAY THE SALT CAT WAS GOING TO JUMP?

ANSWER: WELL, AS YOU SAY, THERE IS GREAT INTEREST IN THAT, AND IT DOES HANG OVER OTHER THINGS. I THINK THERE WERE EXPRESSIONS OF APPRECIATION FROM THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE FOR THE WAY IN WHICH WE HAVE TRIED TO KEEP PEOPLE INFORMED. AS YOU KNOW SECRETARY VANCE STOPPED IN BRUSSELS AND TALKED TO THE NATO COUNCIL ON HIS WAY TO MOSCOW. THERE WAS WHAT WE CALL A DEBRIEFING AT THE END OF THAT MIX BY ANOTHER HIGH OFFICIAL OF OUR GOVERNMENT, AND SECRETARY VANCE MADE CLEAR TO HIS COLLEAGUES HE WILL BE MEETING, THEY WILL BE KEPT REGULARLY INFORMED. IT IS HARD TO SAY WHERE THAT IS GOING TO COME OUT AS YOU POINT OUT, AND WE JUST HAVE TO GO ON MAKING OUR PLANS ON THE HOPE THAT WE CAN ACHIEVE SOME BREAKTHROUGHS THERE. AT THE SAME TIME, AS I SAY, IF THAT PROVES NOT POSSIBLE, I THINK WE ARE PREPARED TO DO OUR PART ON THE OTHER SIDE TO MAKE SURE THAT THE BALANCE IS MAINTAINED.

QUESTION: MR. AMBASSADOR, REUTERS, A SLIGHT MISUNDERSTANDING MIGHT HAVE APPEARED YESTERDAY EVENING WHEN PRESIDENT CARTER AT HIS DEPARTURE SAID THAT HE HAD NOT ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO GO TO FRANCE NEXT AUTUMN. CAN YOU CLARIFY THIS AND IS THIS A REBUKE OF PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING TELLING THAT HE WAS EXPECTING PRESIDENT CARTER NEXT AUTUMN?

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ANSWER: I AM SORRY, I REALLY CAN'T COMMENT ON THAT BECAUSE I'M TALKING ABOUT THE COMMUNIQUE AND THAT OF COURSE IS OUTSIDE THE RANGE OF OUR MEETING AND I REALLY DON'T KNOW THE FACTS ON IT. WELL, IF EVERYBODY IS AS HAPPY WITH THE MEETING AS I AM. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

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Subject: AMBASSADOR W. TAPLEY BENNETT'S POST-NATO MEETING PRESS CONFERENCE, LONDON, MAY 11, 1977 FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF POST-NATO MEETING PRESS CONFERENCE
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